Gauging States in order of the performance in implementing rural development schemes

405. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States can be listed in the order of their performance in implementing rural development schemes;

(b) if so, the list of ten such States;

(c) whether there is any scheme of reward and punishment for the States in this regard;

(d) if not, the reason therefor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action generally taken against non-performing States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development have not ranked the States on the basis of performance in implementing the rural development schemes.

(c) to (e) A limit of 15% has been placed on the permissible Opening Balance the States may have at the beginning of the year. Cuts are also imposed on the funds to be released to the States, if proposals for second instalment are received after December. If the proposals are received in January, 10% cut in the 2nd instalment is

effected. If the proposals are received in February, the cut is 20% and if the proposals are received in March, the cut is 30%.

Meeting of State Ministers for tackling problems of drinking water and sanitation

406. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had convened a meeting in the third week of October of all the State Ministers to deal with the problems of drinking water and sanitation;

(b) if yes, what are the other details of the meeting; and

(c) the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A copy of the recommendations of the State Ministers Conference on Rural Drinking Water held on 19-20th October, 2001 is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Recommendations of the State Ministers Conference on Rural Drinking Water held on 19-20 October, 2001

A two-day Conference of the State Ministers in-charge of Rural Water Supply was held in New Delhi on October 19-20, 2001, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Anna Saheb M.K. Patil, Chief Minister from Haryana, Shri Om Prakash Chautala, Lt, Governor from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Ministers in-charge of Rural Water Supply from 16 States, senior officers from the Central and State Governments and representatives from External Support Agencies participated in the Conference.

1. The Conference deliberated in detail on various issues of the Rural Water Supply Sector. One of the major issues discussed was the relaxation of norms for coverage of rural habitations with drinking water. The present norms provide for 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd) with a source within 1.6 km. in the